



# International Economic Ambassadors Initiative

# FAQ

PASSPO



ited States  
meri



Prepared by:  
Office of Lt. Governor  
Daniel J. McKee

# FAQ

## **What is the purpose of the initiative?**

To encourage Rhode Islanders to use their international contacts and professional relationships to promote our state's viable economic potential as an entry point to United States markets.

## **Why do we need International Economic Ambassadors?**

This initiative, at no added cost to the state, will help attract foreign and domestic investment to Rhode Island and create new avenues for economic opportunity. The program is a natural addition to the state's current international economic development strategies.

## **Who is eligible to participate?**

Rhode Islanders, age 18 and over, who have an interest in creating economic opportunity for our state can apply.

## **How can I apply?**

Visit [www.ltgov.ri.gov/ambassadors](http://www.ltgov.ri.gov/ambassadors) and fill out a brief application. Once you submit your application, a member of the Lt. Governor's staff will contact you about next steps.

## **Are International Economic Ambassadors compensated?**

There is no compensation for participating in this initiative. No expenses will be reimbursed. All ambassadors are volunteers and cover their out-of-pocket expenses.

## **How does the program work?**

Ambassadors are given a professional marketing kit that highlights Rhode Island's diverse economy, convenient geography and rich history. When an ambassador travels out of the country, they use the kit to have simple, positive conversations about Rhode Island with business or government leaders in their personal and professional networks.

Ambassadors are also given business cards. The cards clarify that the sphere of interest and influence is limited to economic development and that the individual is serving in an honorary position.

Once an ambassador makes a promising contact, they report back to the Lt. Governor's Office where a staff member will engage the appropriate Rhode Island economic development agency. Economic development officials will follow up and complete the process of engagement within the bounds of their daily responsibilities.

After an initial connection is made, the ambassador may be authorized to extend an invitation to their contact to visit Rhode Island and meet economic development officials or state/municipal leaders.

Appropriate time must be allowed to prepare for an official visit to Rhode Island. The connecting ambassador should be available to continue the relationship from first contact to first meeting in Rhode Island.